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Community Relations Plan
for
Toups

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COMMUNITY RELATIONS PLAN

for

L.J. Toups Site Proposed State Superfund Site
Sour Lake, Hardin County, Texas

July 2000

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Site Location Map

Site Map

Text of public notice of the public meeting regarding the proposed remedial action for the Troups site – *Hardin County News*, July 19, 2000; *Silsbee Bee*, July 20, 2000; *Texas Register* July 21, 2000

Texas Register publication of the public notice of the public meeting regarding proposing the Troups site to the state Superfund Registry – December 17, 1993

Texas Register Publication of the state Superfund Registry

May 26, 2000

June 4, 1999

November 20, 1998

April 18, 1997

April 12, 1996

March 31, 1995

January 25, 1994

March 30, 1993

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Overview of Community Relations Plan

This community relations plan (CRP) identifies issues of community concern regarding the L.J. Toups Site Proposed State Superfund Site (Toups) located in the city of Sour Lake in Hardin County, Texas. This CRP also outlines the anticipated community relations activities to be conducted during each phase of the cleanup at the Toups site.

The Toups community relations plan has been prepared to aid the Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission (TNRCC) in developing a community relations program tailored to the needs of the community affected by the Toups site. The TNRCC will conduct community relations activities to ensure that the local public has input to decisions and access to information about Superfund activities at the Toups site.

The TNRCC has the responsibility for managing the cleanup of this site, and the TNRCC Remediation Division will oversee all community relations activities at the site.

Site Profile

Site Location and Description:

30E 10' 14" North Latitude, 94E 23' 57" West Longitude

The Toups site is located in Sour Lake, Hardin County, Texas. The site consists of two adjacent tracts of land purchased by Mr. Lester J. Toups from different owners on the same day, February 20, 1957. A tract consisting of 19.015 acres was purchased from the estate of Alma M. Carpenter through the executors, H.D. Carpenter and F.H. Carpenter, Jr. Another tract of 2.52 acres was purchased from Earl C. Hankamer and F.H. Carpenter, Jr. for a total of 21.535 acres.

The site is located on the west side of State Highway 326, 2.1 miles north of its intersection with State Highway 105 in Sour Lake, and is bordered by tracts of land with a small number of homes on the west, north and south.

Site visits were conducted by TNRCC staff on November 9, 1992, January 22, 1993 and March 22-26, 1993. The staff identified 169 metal drums in various degrees of deterioration; 39 drums were empty, the remainder contained varying amounts of contents. There were several locations on site where drums were concentrated in common areas.

A 70 foot by 100 foot area in the central west portion of the site contained about 70 of the 169 drums. The ground area had visible surface contamination. There was also subsurface contamination from paint wastes, and municipal solid waste of an unknown depth.

Gas cylinders, five-gallon containers, a leaking 5,000 gallon above-ground tank, a debarker, a commercial saw, a dragline and a metal 1,000 gallon oil/water separator raised from the ground with supports were found on the site.

A house with an attached storage area and parakeet barn, three storage barns and one farrowing barn were also on the site.

Two abandoned wells were observed. One well was located north of the breezeway between the parakeet house and the shed attached to the Toups' home. This well is located toward the front of the house. The other well is located north of the farrowing barn, adjacent to a raised wooden platform.

The site has been inactive since Mr. Toups' death in 1982. The only activities on site since 1982 have been hay storage in the barn, located west of the south entrance, and general maintenance of the property.

Background and Operating History:

Toups operated the site simultaneously as a pentachlorophenol fencepost treating facility and a municipal waste dump from 1957 until the late 1960's when the fencepost treating facility closed. The municipal waste dumping ended about 1970. Between 1970 and 1974, Mr. Toups was paid and/or provided topsoil by the City of Sour Lake to maintain the municipal waste dump. In addition to the dump, Mr. Toups operated a swine farm with 400 to 1,000 swine on the property from 1972 until his death in 1982.

The fencepost treating facility included the following activities:

The fenceposts were debarked or peeled in the central area of the site; bundled and taken on the property to above-ground vats of pentachlorophenol; the bundles of posts were lowered into the vats and allowed to soak in the pentachlorophenol.

The bundles were raised above the vats and allowed to drain.

The bundles were then placed directly on two fenceposts lying perpendicular to the bundle and allowed to drain/dry directly onto the soil until shipped off-site.

March 16, 1992 - The District 6 office responded to a March 10, 1992 public request to investigate the site. During this and subsequent investigations, 30 to 40 drums of an oil/tar substance were found south and west of the barn. Three drums, containing a dark substance were found in a flatbed truck, 3 firepack drums with labels indicating a Dupont herbicide, Telvar, were found inside the barn, and approximately 70 55-gallon drums containing paint waste were found in the central west area of the property.

In addition, the debarker, a commercial saw and an above-ground pentachlorophenol vat were still onsite.

Numerous samples were taken of soil, surface water, paint waste and container contents. Chemical analysis of the samples taken from the paint waste area, as reported in September 1992, indicated that the waste is characteristically hazardous for lead.

March 22, 1993 - As part of a TNRCC immediate response action, all empty drums were staged in a common area and covered. The drums with contents were over packed after samples were taken.

March 26, 1993 - The area was roped off and warning signs were posted.

November 16, 1993 and again on December 21, 1993, legal notices were published in the *Kountze News* describing the site, proposing the site to the state Superfund registry, and announcing that a public meeting to receive citizen comments would be held at the Sour Lake City Hall on January 25, 1994.

December 17, 1993 - A legal notice was published in the *Texas Register*, describing the site, proposing the site to the state Superfund registry, and announcing that a public meeting to receive citizen comments would be held at the Sour Lake City Hall on January 25, 1994.

January 25, 1994 - A public meeting was held at the Sour Lake city council chambers to receive comments on the proposal of the site to the state Superfund registry and to identify any additional potentially responsible parties.

February, 1996 - A site perimeter fence was constructed and signs were posted warning of contamination.

March 1, 1996, the remedial investigation/feasibility study began.

January 21, 1998, TNRCC and the city finalized a settlement agreement that satisfied the city's financial obligations toward cleanup.

May 5, 1998, the TNRCC project manager and staff representatives from Foster-Wheeler Environmental visited the site to identify the areas of concern, evaluate site conditions and identify any additional considerations which should be included with revisions to the remedial investigation work plans.

June 1998 - Phase I RI work plan approved by TNRCC.

July/August 1998 - Phase I RI field work conducted.

September 1998 - Phase I RI letter Technical Memorandum submitted. This Technical Memorandum included recommendations for additional remedial investigation activities.

October 1998 - Phase I RI TM and Phase II RI work plan approved by TNRCC.

November 1998 - Phase II RI field work conducted.

August 1999 - Final RI Report approved by TNRCC.

September 1999 - Baseline Risk Evaluation completed.

June 2000 - Presumptive Remedy Document completed
(takes the place of the feasibility study)

Community Profile

Hardin County, located in southeast Texas, has an economy supported by paper manufacturing, wood processing, minerals and food processing.

In 1995 the State Data Center of the Texas Department of Commerce estimated the population of Hardin County at 46,178 an 11.8% increase from the 1990 U.S. Census estimate. The 1990 ethnicity estimates of Hardin County by the U.S. Census were: white, 90.7%; black, 8.4%; Hispanic, 1.6%; American Indian, 0.3%; Asian, 0.1% and other 0.4%.

Community Involvement and Concerns

According to notes from the previous Community Relations plans, the residents are aware of the site, but do not appear to be overly concerned about it. During the TNRCC emergency removal in March 1993, residents and area landowners would stop by to inquire about the site and to offer information to TNRCC staff.

A public meeting was held in the Sour Lake City Council chambers on January 25, 1994 to announce the proposal of the Troups site to the state Superfund registry. Approximately 20 persons attended the proposal meeting.

Sour Lake city officials had been concerned that the city was named a PRP with financial implications for paying a share of the cleanup cost because municipal solid waste from the city was disposed of at the site. On January 21, 1998, a settlement between the city and the TNRCC was finalized.

There have been no inquiries from the public to the TNRCC regarding the status of the Troups site.

Specific Objectives of the Community Relations Program

- A. Maintain open communications between the Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission, City of Sour Lake, Hardin County and State officials and concerned citizens.
- B. Continue to expand the mailing list to include additional agencies, organizations, and residents that are interested in the project.
- C. Provide a central information contact from whom interested parties can receive information on site activities, project status, and study results.
- D. Provide all information, especially technical findings, in a language that is understandable to the general public and in a form useful to interested citizens and elected officials through the preparation of fact sheets and news releases, when major findings become available during project phases.
- E. Monitor community concerns and information requirements as the project progresses by monitoring the community response to news releases and community meetings.
- F. Modify the community relations plan as changes in community attitudes and needs occur and maintain accuracy during different project phases.

Community Relations Techniques

- A. Project Status Briefings for community groups and concerned citizens (may include public meetings, if needed) - To periodically inform the general community of significant project developments and findings; to respond to inquiries accordingly and incorporate local concerns into the decision making process as appropriate.
- B. Project Mailing List - To provide the means through which press releases, project status reports and other significant communications can be distributed to concerned groups and individuals.
- C. Public Consultations - To conduct informal meetings (if needed) with residents. To provide an opportunity for affected residents to express any concerns and to make inquiries to insure effective two-way communication.
- D. Program Document Repositories - To maintain easily accessible repositories through which the public may review project outputs. The public will be periodically informed of the availability of project documents and the location of repositories via techniques A through C.
- E. TNRCC State Superfund Internet Homepage - provide current, timely information on state Superfund activities on the World Wide Web at the following web address:
www.tnrcc.state.tx.us/permitting/remed/superfund/toups.html
- F. Revise CRP - To reflect changes in site activities or local concerns. After the Proposed Remedial Action Document (PRAD) has been issued, the CRP will be revised to address implementation of the selected remedial action alternative.

Area Elected Officials

State

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State Senate
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Nacogdoches, Texas 75691
Telephone: 409/564-4252

The Honorable Drew Nixon
State Senate
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The Honorable Zeb Zbranek
Texas House of Representatives
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Telephone: 800/438-6202

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Texas House of Representatives
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City

The Honorable Bruce Robinson
Mayor
City of Sour Lake
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Sour Lake, Texas 77659
Telephone: 409/287-3573

The Honorable Shannon McDonald
Mayor ProTem
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The Honorable Hal Johnson
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The Honorable Shane Rich
Alderman
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Area News Media

Silsbee Bee
Attention: Editor
P.O. Box 547
Silsbee , Texas 77656
Telephone: 409/385-5278
Fax: 409/385-5270

KJAC-TV
Attention: News Director
2900 17th St
Port Arthur, Texas 77642
Telephone: 409/985-5557
Fax: 409/982-3747

Hardin County News
Attention: Editor
P.O. Box 8204
Lumberton, Texas 77657
Telephone: 409/755-4912
Fax: 409/755-7731

Beaumont Enterprise-Journal
Attention: City Editor
P.O. Box 3071
Beaumont, Texas 77704
Telephone: 409/838-2859
Fax: 409/838-2857

KLVI-AM, KYKR-FM
Attention: News Director
P.O. Box 5488
Beaumont, Texas 77726
Telephone: 409/896-5588
Fax: 409/896-5599

KQHN-AM, KAYD-AM/FM, KTCX-FM
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Beaumont, Texas 77704
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Fax: 409/833-9296

KFDM-TV
Attention News Director
P.O. Box 7128
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Project Document Repositories

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